

# PURIM



Traditionally Purim is celebrated for two days each year starting on the 13th of Adar the biblical calendar (Feb./Mar.). If the year has an Adar Bet month (depending on the barley), it is then usually celebrated on the 13th of Adar Bet which is one month (moon) later. The month of Adar Bet comes every three years. Something that should be noted about when the people celebrated the Feasts, traditionally, they celebrated one day later in walled cities compared to open towns and villages.

## Importance

Purim is the yearly festival commemorating the deliverance of the Jewish people in the days of King Ahasuerus of Persia, as described in the Book of Esther. The Book of Esther, which is read in its entirety in the synagogue on Purim, tells of a Jewish girl named Hadassah, also known as Esther, whose circumstances put her in a position to save her people from an evil plot to annihilate the entire Jewish population of the Persian Empire. Many seem to think Purim is all about Esther, but in reality, it is just as well a story about Mordecai, Saul, Esau, Amalek, and Haman. The story is full of delightfully ironic twists and extraordinary coincidences.

Purim is a Biblical holiday, but it does not have the spiritual importance of the Holy Days mandated in the Torah. It was not commanded at Mount Sinai, but stems from the subsequent history of the Jewish people. The book of Esther has the unusual distinction of being the only book of the Bible which makes no direct reference to Yahveh, Yeshua, the temple, the priesthood, the prophets, the patriarchs, prayer, or any particular Jewish religious observance. Even the pagan gods of the Persians are not mentioned, making this the most secular book in Scripture.

Purim is a celebration for all those who are allies with Israel, Those overcome by Yah. **Est. 9:27** " *the Jews established and made a custom for themselves and for their descendants and for all those who allied themselves with them, so that they would not fail to celebrate these two days according to their regulation and according to their appointed time annually.*"

Purim is just before Passover. It is designed to prepare your heart for passover.

## The Story.

The villain of the story of Purim is Haman the Amalekite. (The enmity between the sons of Israel and the sons of Amalek goes all the way back to the Exodus.) Haman was held in high regard by the King of Persia, and expected to be venerated by all whose paths he crossed. Wherever Haman went he was shown extreme respect, most people bowed down before him when he came into their presence. Proud Haman took serious offence when a certain Mordechai refused to bow down to him. When he learned that Mordechai was a Jew, Haman determined to use his influence with the King to have a law decreed that would declare "open season" on Jews throughout the land on a certain date to be determined by lot. (The word "Purim" actually means "lots").

**Why did Haman the Amalekite hate the Jews so much?**

It was because he was a descendent of Amalek whom Yah hated. In the book of Deuteronomy we see a scripture that shows that even Yah can hate human beings. In these verses Yah makes it abundantly clear that any and all Amalekites and their descendants forever, are to be destroyed, blotted out for all generations. This is a very harsh statement that Yah Himself made, so one can only assume His hatred for those people was extremely severe. **Deut. 25:17-19** *“Remember what Amalek did to you along the way when you came out from Egypt, 18 how he met you along the way and attacked among you all the stragglers at your rear when you were faint and weary; and he did not fear God. 19 “Therefore it shall come about when Adonai your Elohim has given you rest from all your surrounding enemies, in the land which Adonai your Elohim gives you as an inheritance to possess, you shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven; you must not forget.”* Amalek was the grandson of Esau. Haman was one of those descendants, and Yah used Mordechai and Ahasuerus to destroy him. Every generation has an Amalek. **Exod. 17:14-16** *Then Adonai said to Moses, “Write this in a book as a memorial and recite it to Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven.”* *for he said, “Because Adonai has sworn: Adonai will have war with Amalek from generation to generation”*. Can you think of the many Amalek’s throughout the ages? It doesn’t take much imagination to come up with a lot of evil men in the history of the world who represent Amalek.

Haman convinced the king that the Jews were not paying their taxes appropriately and the Kingdom was much better off without them around. Haman used his close relationship with the king and convinced the king to make a law stating that on such and such a date the Jews in the land would be exterminated. Haman paid the King a large sum of money to have this law made into effect and have the Jews annihilated, so the king went along with it.

At that time, during one of the kings feasts, Ahasuerus summoned his queen Vashti to appear for all to admire. King Ahasuerus was king over 127 Provinces from India to Ethiopia. It is thought by many that during this party that King Ahasuerus put on for 180 days, recorded in Esther 1: 3-4, he wore a robe taken from the High priest of the Temple. This was made possible because Queen Vashti was the grand-daughter of King Nebuchadnezzar and the majestic robe had been passed down through her family. Nebuchadnezzar had captured and destroyed the Temple years earlier.

The queen refused to appear when summoned and hence broke the Persian law. The Persian law stated that when the king summoned someone, that person was required to come forward, and refusal to do so could result in the death penalty. This rule included all of the kings household and family. Queen Vashti refused to submit to the kings desire and because of this insubordination was banished from the kingdom. The kings elders got together and decided that in order to replace the queen, the monarchy would have a nation wide beauty contest. The kings representatives went throughout the land choosing beautiful virgins (virtuous), girls to compete for the position of queen.

Esther's real name was Hadassah, which means "myrtle". Hadassah, the Jewish girl who won the beauty contest was told by Mordechai to change her name to Esther so no one would realize she was from the tribe of Judah. Esther/Ishtar/Easter was the name of a very popular fertility goddess of the time known as the Queen of Heaven. People

proclaiming to be christians have been for centuries celebrating Easter named in honor of the pagan goddess, Queen of Heaven, knowing all the while she was a pagan fertility Goddess.

Hadassah became the young Jewish girl called Esther. She became the new Queen of Persia, but neither Haman nor the King were aware that she was Jewish, or that Mordechai was her close relative and surrogate father. Mordechai had instructed her to keep her nationality a secret!

One night King Ahasuerus was unable to sleep, and called for the annals (records of his government) to be read to him. Thus he was reminded that a certain Mordechai had once uncovered a plot against the throne, and saved his royal neck. Realizing that Mordechai had never been suitably thanked, Ahasuerus began to ask around for a suitable way to honor him. By extraordinarily ironic coincidence, the evil Haman just then approached the palace to request to have Mordechai hanged on a 70-foot gallows he had just erected! But before he could make his request known, the King began to question him on “what should be done for the man the King delights to honor.” The vain and wicked Haman immediately assumed it was him the King intended to honor, and described the sort of fanfare he would fancy for himself: “Dress him in a royal robe, one the King himself has worn, and put him on the finest horse, and have him led about the city by one of the King’s highest nobles, proclaiming ‘This is what is done for the man the king delights to honor!’” Imagine his chagrin when the King revealed it was Mordechai he wished to honor, and “gave honor to” Haman by picking him to lead the horse! (Esther 6:8-10)

Now as gratifying as it is to see Haman put in his place while Mordechai is given honor, the law is still set that Haman had earlier arranged for -- that on Adar 13 every Jewish soul in Persia should perish, and the law of Medes and Persians was irrevocable. Once a law was sealed with the signet ring of the King, not even the King himself could repeal it. What could be done? Haman had chosen the 13th day of Adar because he knew it was the day Moses died. He wanted to hurt the Jews psychologically as well as physically. What he failed to remember was that it was also the day Moses was born.

At the time of Purim the remnant of the Jews were rebuilding the walls in Jerusalem and wanting to rebuild the Temple. Nehemiah lead them to do so (Neh. 1:1-5, 2:19-20). If Haman's plan had succeeded all the Jews would have been annihilated and there would have been no rebuilding of Jerusalem.

## **THE KINGS SCEPTER**

It was law back in biblical times that no one could come into the presence of the King unless the King put forth his scepter. We see in the following scriptures evidence of this. **Est. 4:11** *“All the king’s servants and the people of the king’s provinces know that for any man or woman who comes to the king to the inner court who is not summoned, he has but one law, that he be put to death, **unless the king holds out to him the golden scepter so that he may live. And I have not been summoned to come to the king for these thirty days.**”* Esther had to get into the presence of the king in order to reveal to him the cowardly plot Haman had in mind in regard to the destruction of the Jewish people. Esther a very beautiful woman, made use of her beauty, put on her royal robes, and enticed the king to invite her into his presence (Est. 5:2-4). Then she was able to slowly work her way in and have Haman exposed for the devil he really was.

Esther realized it was up to her to appeal to the King for help, but this would not be easy. Not even the queen was allowed to approach the king un-summoned, and if the mood struck him wrong, he could have her hanged. The fate of the Jewish People was at stake however, and Esther took it as her solemn duty to do what she could, saying "if I perish I perish".

When she did approach the king for a request, he welcomed her, but she did not make her request all at once. Instead she invited him and Haman to a banquet. She had three such banquets, and the King was so pleased with her he offered her "up to half of the Kingdom." Only then did she reveal that her people were in danger, and that Haman was responsible. The King then left the room in anger, and while he was gone Haman threw himself at Esther to beg for mercy. When the King returned to the banquet hall and found Haman inappropriately close to his queen, he had the evil Amalekite dragged off and hanged -- on the very gallows Haman had prepared for Mordechai! He then gave Haman's estate to Esther, who gave Mordechai charge of it, and the King gave them his signet ring to draft another law -- stating that the Jews of the empire would have the right of resistance when the fateful day arrived, and so be able to save themselves. According to the book of Esther itself, that day has been a day of celebration ever since.

This is a symbolic reminder for all believers that in order to get close to our King we must know, respect and honor His law. If you know the law, you know the heart of Yah. If you know the heart of Yah you can come close to Him and this is what He desires. This is why King David was known as the man with the perfect heart. This idea can be related to today in all marriages. If a man knows his Queens (wife's) heart, he will get close to her, and vice versa. There has to be law in order to have closeness and respect and obedience, which results in a true loving relationship. Every household has laws. There are certain lines established in every home that you simply don't cross. This is part of living as a unit, in echad. To sum it up, we see here that we can get close to the King, but in order to do so we must know His law and abide by it. If we do not, He has the authority to remove you from His presence.

For hundreds of years so-called christians have proclaimed that as long as you invite Jesus into your heart you can come into the presence of the King. They have been lead to believe that as long as you go down to the front of the church and invite their Jesus into your heart that they can bask in Yah's glory, that they can approach Him in His Holy of Holies. That is simply not in the bible anywhere and it is simply not the truth. It is just another lie to dupe people into thinking they are part of His family, when they are not. Many people see the results of the presence of Yah in and with His anointed people, but few can enter into His presence because they don't accept or follow His law/torah.

In Esther chapter two it tells us about the chosen women who could be the future Queen, called into the presence of the King for him to appraise. Before they could enter into his presence (2:12-16) they spent over six months, under the supervision of Hegai, being prepared to enter into the presence of the king just to be introduced. Esther went through an entire year of preparation to meet her king, we should go through the necessary preparations to remove all filth from us so that we too can meet our king.

Is this starting to make sense? In christianity, people are told they can just simply enter into the presence of the king, all they have to do is proclaim they love Him. As

shown here, that is simply not reality. One will never be in the presence of the King of Kings unless he in faith, knows and obeys His laws set down in stone for all. One must know and observe the protocol in order to have a personal relationship with the king. One must be clean (repent of their sins) and be prepared (know and honor the Word), to come into the presence of the king.

It is traditional to eat dishes made of prunes during Purim. Everyone knows what prunes do when you eat them, so the idea is to cleanse the Haman (devil) from your system.

**Est. 8:17** tells about the feast of Purim and that many Gentiles became proselytes at that time. *“And in each and every province, and in each and every city, wherever the king’s commandment and his decree arrived, there was gladness and joy for the Jews, a feast and a holiday. And many among the peoples of the land became Jews, for the dread of the Jews had fallen on them.”*

**Est. 9:26-28** *“Therefore they called these days Purim after the name of Pur. And because of the instructions in this letter, both what they had seen in this regard and what had happened to them, the Jews established and made a custom for themselves, and for their descendants, and for all those who allied themselves with them, so that they should not fail to celebrate these two days according to their regulation, and according to their appointed time annually. So these days were to be remembered and celebrated throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city; and these days of Purim were not to fail from among the Jews, or their memory fade from their descendants.”*

Amalek, the King spoken of in Deut. 25:17, represented Satan, the same as Haman represented Satan in the book of Esther. Haman wanted to destroy the Jews a month before Passover, the time of the decree. Satan, represented by Haman, never wants us to keep Passover because it is such a powerful feast. That’s one of the reasons most of proclaimed christianity celebrates Easter (named after the fertility goddess of Ishtar) to this very day, instead of the Feast of Passover. Satan has been very successful. Very few in Christendom are ever blessed by keeping the feasts of the Almighty according to His Torah.

### **MESSIANIC SIGNIFICANCE OF PURIM**

If we look close we will see all kinds of analogies, thematic, numerical and prophetic connections, types, tied in with the Feast of Purim. Let's delve into some deep water here and look at some incredible nuggets that can be found in the book of Esther, connecting us to various other scriptures of our Good Book.

#### **Exactly who was this Haman?**

Now remember, Haman represents Satan in the story of Esther. Haman was hung on his own gallows the day after the three days, just as Satan was defeated on the stake. Haman's power had been taken away away at Calvary just like Satan's. Also, Haman and Satan were both accusers of the brethren. Just another example of thematic connections throughout our bible that come alive when looked at closely.

We will quickly see some interesting things about Haman that connect us to other ideas and occurrences in scripture. Haman was the son of Hammedatha the Agagite. Now let's follow this back and see what is revealed.

## Who was the king of the Agagites in scripture?

King Agag was their king.

## Who was in a battle with king Agag and was told to kill him?

King Saul defeated him in a battle and was told by Yah to destroy everything to do with the Agagites (1Sam. 15:9). Everything meant everything. Sometimes we wonder why our Father would command such a thing, but as it happened here, when we look at the big picture, it's amazing what can be revealed if we have ears to hear and eyes to see.

## Did Saul do as Yah ordered him?

No. Saul never did this, instead he brought back king Agag with all the spoils of war. The prophet Samuel was very upset with Saul because he disobeyed Yah's command. We sometimes hear people say that Yah is a cruel God, that when He told Saul to destroy everything in regard to the Agagites, it made no sense. Here is an example of Yah's knowledge being far outside our time, knowledge and understanding. Imagine if you will, back in the early 1900's when Hitler was born, if some one would have been told to kill him as a baby. How many millions of lives could have been saved because of what at that time would have appeared to have been a terrible act? We can't understand why these things happen but our Dad does and He is outside of time as we know it. That is why when He says and does things we may not understand, we need to trust that He has a good reason for doing so. When Saul refused to destroy all the Agagites the end result was the Agagite Haman trying to destroy Yah's people many many years later. Haman represented Satan as did the Agagites. By not doing what he was told to do, Saul caused thousands of innocent people to be destroyed many years later.

In Esther 9:16 it says the Jews did not lay hands on the plunder when they defended themselves. **Est. 9:16** *"Now the rest of the Jews who were in the king's provinces assembled, to defend their lives and rid themselves of their enemies, and kill 75,000 of those who hated them; but **they did not lay their hands on the plunder**".* Could this be because they remembered what happened to Saul when he didn't obey Yahveh years previous.?

In the story we see Mordechai refusing to bow down or pay homage to Haman whenever they met, which was commanded. This drove Haman nuts. He wanted to kill that Jew because he would not put himself under Haman's authority by bowing down. This is a perfect example of what to do when our biblical beliefs don't line up with those laws and rules of the worldly kingdom we live in. When we are put in a situation when the laws of the nation don't line up with the laws of Yah, we must never pay homage or submit to those rules that are not in alignment with scripture.

## Interesting numeric (gematria) and thematic connections

King Ahasuerus ruled over **127** provinces. Sarah died at the age of **127**. Isaac, Sarah's son who was representative of Yeshua, lived for **180** years (Gen. 35:28). **In his third year** of reign the king showed off his kingdom to **7** princes of Persia and Media for **180** days and then they feasted for **7** days. The King of Kings has **7** spirits. Queen Vashti had **7** eunuchs.

**Esther 1:1-4** talks about three years and 180 days. 180 days is half a year.

Three years and a half is what? This is prophetic of the great tribulation. It also talks about the third year of his reign. When did Yeshua start to reign? If every millennium is a year

which year are we in? We are beginning the third year. We will also be invited to a giant feast on the third day. It is prophetically saying on the seventh day the king's heart was happy. Our hearts should be happy on every seventh day. The king invites us to be with Him on His seventh day. The king is ready to be with His people. He has seven Eunuchs with him. Could these parallel with the seven spirits of the Holy Spirit?

There are 12,110 Hebrew letters from the first time Amalek is mentioned in Gen. 14:7 until he is born in Gen. 36:12. There is exactly 12,110 Hebrew letters in the entire book of Esther.

Only the high priest, represented as Esther in this story, can go into the presence of the king. Esther went into the inner court, holy of holies, to talk to the King. Is it coincidence that this was on the 13th day, just like Yeshua? Could the feast in Esther's time (Est. 5:4) be symbolic of the wedding supper of the lamb in Rev. 9:9?

The number 9 in gematria means "judgement". The number 12 means governmental perfection. Perhaps this is no coincidence. In Est. 3:7 we see that it is now the twelfth year (nine years after Queen Vashti's refusal to come to the king). This is maybe not coincidence.

Verse seven tells us that Haman was going to a fortune teller who was casting lots for him, telling him various things, for twelve months. Haman was using witchcraft. The casting of lots (Purim) is associated with Haman's evil deeds of fortune telling among many other things. With demonic guidance Haman decided that on the thirteenth day of the first month (Nissan) the Jews would all be destroyed. The thirteenth day in witchcraft is very significant. The 13th of Nissan became a very powerful and prophetic date. It was proclaimed that on that day the people had the right to destroy any and all Jewish people anywhere in all 127 provinces. This was to take place one year from the time of the decree. The 13th is the night Yeshua had the Last Supper and Seder meal with His disciples.

Now let's have a look at another thematic connection that jumps off the page. **Est. 4:16** *"Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and **fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day.** I and my maidens also will fast in the same way. And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish."* Here we see Queen Esther and her maidens fasting for three days and three nights. On the third day Queen Esther pleaded for her people. This is a whole lot like Yeshua did at Calvary. The 13th is the exact same day Yeshua had the last supper and exactly three days later Esther boldly went before the throne of the King. On the third day Yeshua put on His royal robe and stood before His King, Yahveh, pleading for His people. The parallels are incredible.

There is a tradition that Orthodox Jews uphold associated with the three days of fasting proclaimed by Esther. Purim Katan means "little Purim". It is a traditional three days of fasting originating from the three days of fasting Esther proclaimed that lead to the original Purim.

**Is it coincidence that Esther, like Yeshua, requested that Satan (Haman) stand before the king to be judged?**

You do the math.

As you can clearly see, the more we strive for revelation, the more revelation Dad

gives to those of us who keep His commandments (John 14:21).

We read in Esther that Mordechai was always at the city gate, helping and leading the people who came for advise. Could that narrow city gate talked about in Esther be symbolic of the east "narrow gate" talked about in scripture (Matt. 7:13)? Who stands at the east gate, Yeshua's gate, and what gate will Yeshua come through when He returns as King of Kings?

Mordecai was chosen to be second in command, just like Joseph was in his day (Est. 10:3). Yah made Mordecai second in command because he is actually the one who saved the Jews, not Esther.

Again, is it coincidence that our King, in the Book of Revelation (Rev. 7:1-3), sends out angels to the four corners of the earth to protect the righteous just like Ahasuerus did in **Est.8:14** *"The couriers, hastened and impelled by the king's command, went out, riding on the royal steeds; and the decree was given out at the citadel in Susa."*

Some interesting occurrences of the number seventeen that are thematically connected to the Purim story:

On the 17th day of the month Esther arose and put on her royal garments.

On the 17th day Noah's Ark landed on Mt. Ararat (Gen. 8:4).

On the 17th day the Israelites passed through the Red Sea (Exod. 3:18, 5:3, 14).

On the 17th day the Israelites started feasting on the grain of the Promised Land.

On the 17th day Haman was killed and life came back to Esther's people.

On the 17th day Satan was symbolically hung (through Judas), and life came to all through Yeshua's restoration. Is it coincidence that Haman was hung on gallows at exactly the same time of the month Yeshua was crucified (17th day)?

### **Complete opposite thematic connection**

Now let's have a look at the exact opposite kind of connection. The opposite thematic theme is seen in the following verses from both Esther and Matthew.

**Est. 5:3** *Then the king said to her, "What is troubling you, Queen Esther? And what is your request? Even to half of the kingdom it shall be given to you."* **Mark 6:22-24** *and when the daughter of Herodias herself came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you want and I will give it to you." 23 And he swore to her, "Whatever you ask of me, I will give it to you; up to half of my kingdom." 24 And she went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist."* Here we see a terrible King letting his emotions get the best of him, causing the life of one of the greatest men on earth to be taken away, compared to a king who had love for his queen.

### **A PROPHETIC HAMAN..AMALEK..HITLER CONNECTION?**

Let's have another look at this passage and see if maybe it is truly prophetic **Est. 9:11-15** *On that day the number of those who were killed at the citadel in Susa was reported to the king. 12 The king said to Queen Esther, "The Jews have killed and destroyed five hundred men and the ten sons of Haman at the citadel in Susa. What then have they done in the rest of the king's provinces! Now what is your petition? It shall even be granted you. And what is your further request? It shall also be done." 13 Then said Esther, "If it pleases the king, let tomorrow also be granted to the Jews who are in Susa to do according to the edict of today; and let Haman's ten sons be hanged on the*



**gallows.**" 14 So the king commanded that it should be done so; and an edict was issued in Susa, and Haman's ten sons were hanged. 15 The Jews who were in Susa assembled also on the **fourteenth day of the month Adar** and killed **three** hundred men in Susa, but they did not lay their hands on the plunder." The ten sons of Haman were already dead, yet Esther said to "**let Haman's sons be hanged on the gallows**". Why would she have dead men hung on the gallows?

The sages say that there are two uses of the word "tomorrow". It can mean "a tomorrow which is now, or a tomorrow which is later". In other words, *Esther* was asking that the hanging of *Haman's* ten sons not remain an isolated episode in history, but should recur in the future, as well. Yet, if this is the case, surely King Ahasuerus was in no position to agree to such a request. Only Yahveh could make and keep such a promise.

An examination of the sources solves this problem too. According to the Sages, every time **King Ahasuerus** is mentioned by name in the *Book of Esther*, the reference is to him; when the word [hey-mem-lamed-kaph] - **the King**, appears on its own, it refers to Yahveh. Esther was therefore not addressing her request to **Ahasuerus**, but to **Yah** - who granted her request.

Let's look at something rather intriguing. In scripture, in the original Hebrew text, the ten names of Haman's sons are listed vertically, one under the other. After each name it is revealed that they were all hung individually, not all together as many may think. This is significant. If you take and add the gematric value of all the three small letters, Tav, Shin, and Tzion, throughout the text, you come up with a total of 5707.

Now let's look at another coincidence. On Oct 16, 1946 (Hoshana Rabba, the Last Great Day.. where the verdicts of Yah are sealed), which was the Hebrew year 5707, ten of Hitler's men were hung on gallows one at a time. On that twenty first day of Tisri 1946 Time Magazine wrote what happened to Hitler's ten men. Quote: "**One by one, each of the ten men were sentenced to be hanged, took his place under the gallows and said their last words. Then Julius Streicher walked up to the spot under the noose. Streicher shouted his last words, "Purim 1946", just as he was about to be hanged.**" This is absolutely fascinating. Is the fact that Streicher's name was Julius, so close to Judas, just another coincidence. I think not. This was the exact same day 2300 years after Haman's ten sons were hung. Another little antidote is this: there were supposed to be eleven men hung on that day in 1946 but one man committed suicide the previous day. Coincidence?? Think about it for a second, Julius Streicher was a German, yet he knew the Hebrew calendar. **Why would he say "Purim 1946"**? Oct 16/1946 was no special date on the common calendar, but it sure was a special date on the Hebrew calendar. That means this man had a Hebrew background.

Ahmadinejad (the President of Iran), is a perfect example of the Amalek of today's generation. Hitler, Mussolini, Franco, Stalin, Hussein, and all Roman Catholic Popes are more examples of the devil in human form living among the general population.

## **SET APART**

In the Purim story, Haman said their laws (referring to the Jewish people) who kept torah, are different from the common people. Does that sound familiar? What group of people out there have been proclaiming for many years that the laws of the Torah are not for the common people? Just another example of how throughout history the battle

between good and evil has existed and is still going on in the churches today. We are either obedient to the torah or rebellious to torah. Rebellion of torah is witchcraft (1Sam. 15:23, Isa. 65:4). Those who don't keep Yah's laws will be destroyed by it in one way or another.

### **Purim is in a sense in every Feast:**

On Passover they came out of slavery and entered into freedom; on Purim they came out from under a decree of death to life.

On Unleavened Bread we get the "sin" out of our houses. On Purim they repented of their sin for thirty days and asked for forgiveness.

On First Fruits Yeshua rose from the dead and Satan was vanquished. On Purim, the Jews were raised up (saved), and Haman was destroyed.

On Shavuot (Pentecost) they received the Torah, and on Purim they once again accepted the Torah.

On Trumpets the book of life is open and the people are judged. On Purim they were judged if the death decree would stand or if they would live.

On Yom Kippur they are forgiven for all their sins, and on Purim they were forgiven for joining with the king in his banquet against what the Torah taught them.

On Succoth we anxiously await the marriage supper of the Lamb as the Bride. On Purim it's all about that special dinner with the king.

### **SUMMARY**

Now let's summarize and look at the hard facts of what really happened to Esther. Esther lived in exile. Esther, along with a significant amount of the Jewish people, lived scattered throughout Persia after the Babylonian exile. Although they had been granted freedom to return to their homeland, many of the Jewish people stayed in exile rather than go back to a war-torn Jerusalem.

Esther was an orphan. **Esther 2:7** *"He had raised Hadassah, that is, Ester, his uncle's daughter; because she had neither father nor mother. The girl was shapely and good-looking; after her father's and mother's death, Mordekhai had adopted her as his own daughter."*

Esther was a captive, she was taken. When the king's order and edict had been proclaimed, many young women were brought to the capital of Shushan and put under the care of Hegai. Esther was taken to the king's palace and entrusted to Hegai, who had charge of the harem." **Esther 2:8** *When the king's order and decree were proclaimed, and many girls assembled in Shushan the capital under the care of Hegai, **Ester too was taken into the king's house and put under the care of Hegai, who was in charge of the women.***" We read that Esther was young and exceptionally beautiful. We can also see that, from the language used here, Esther didn't have any say in the matters that unfolded. She was young, pretty, and she was taken.

Esther was "taken to the King's palace". The following will astound many but it is written. **Esther 2:12-14** ***Each girl had her turn to appear before King Achashverosh after she had undergone the full twelve-month preparation period prescribed for the women, consisting of a six-month treatment with oil of myrrh and six months with perfumes and other cosmetics for women. Then, when the girl went to see the king, whatever she wanted would be given to her as she went from the harem's house to the***

king's palace. **14 She would go in the evening, and on the following day she would return to another part of the harem's house and be under the care of Sha'ashgaz the king's officer in charge of the concubines. She would not go to the king again unless he was especially pleased with her and had her summoned by name.**"

Esther may have even been raped. The virgins, who were all quite young, were escorted to the king, who is said to have been approximately forty years of age at the time. They were taken one by one, for him to sleep with and then be discarded. They didn't return to the other virgins, but instead were added to the number of the king's other concubines. No other man could ever be their husband, and they never saw the king again unless he was "pleased with them." In short, the king test-drove all the models before making his purchase. And he "purchased" Esther and used her to replace his former Queen.

Esther risked death. When Mordecai learns of Haman's plot to annihilate all of the Jewish people, Esther is pushed to center stage. Mordecai sends the Queen a message, telling her to throw herself before the king and beg for mercy on behalf of her people. But this wasn't as easy as it may have sounded. Esther knew that anyone who approached the king without first being summoned was killed—unless the king was in the mood to extend his scepter and spare their life. What Mordecai was asking her to do could easily be the last thing she ever did. **Esther 4:12-14** *"Upon being told what Ester had said, Mordechai 13 asked them to give Ester this answer: "Don't suppose that merely because you happen to be in the royal palace you will escape any more than the other Jews. 14 For if you fail to speak up now, relief and deliverance will come to the Jews from a different direction; but you and your father's family will perish. **Who knows whether you didn't come into your royal position precisely for such a time as this.**"*

Yah chose a woman who had everything taken from her—her parents, her freedom, her virginity—and He gave her everything. He used someone who, due to gender, culture, and circumstance, was powerless and invisible and made her the pivotal, formidable heroine. **1Cor. 1:27** *"But God chose what the world considers nonsense in order to shame the wise; **God chose what the world considers weak in order to shame the strong;***

To sum it up, Purim is about a king choosing his bride. A true bride approaching her king with respect and as per torah protocol. A bride knowing when to submit to authority and knowing when to defy authority. (We defy authority when it crosses the authority of our King.) The story of Purim is all about authority, using it, misusing it, defying it, or getting authority. Purim points out to us how the devil does not want the bride to ever get together with the groom (King).

There are so many different ways we can relate to the story of Esther. From the concept of marriage to dedication, to faithfulness, to trusting that our Abba will always work things out in the end. We can easily understand the devil's mission to destroy Yah's people wherever they are and in ways that are even hard to imagine. Even though we all know Haman's, it is our duty to shine the light of Yeshua into the midst of these evil beings so they can be clearly exposed and dealt with accordingly.

The story shows us that no-matter what evil is taking place around us, if we are wise enough to pay close attention and expose it, our Father will make everything work out for

the good of all His children.

The entire book of Esther is about many characters, not just Esther as many would have you believe. You may consider that Mordecai was the main object of the Purim story, because it is he who made everything take place in the story to save the Jewish people. Maybe Esther was just the vessel Mordecai used to change the events.

The story of Purim is about Amalek, it's about Saul, it's about Mordecai, Yeshua, Joseph, the devil, the temple, Esther, and even Jacob and Esau when we dig down deep. It may even go much further than that.

The Book of Esther demonstrates that Yah's promise to preserve His people cannot be overcome. Even though the book expresses no direct acknowledgement of Yah, His hand is evident in the outplay of events. Mordechai and Esther may have been Yah-fearing Jews, but the text itself leaves this open. One could as easily read the story as being about two determined secular Jews participating in Yah's unfolding drama without even knowing who was behind it, just as secular Zionists and modern Israelis have done -- fighting for the sake of the people while failing to acknowledge Yah who assures their eventual success. From the Exodus, Yom Kippur War, to the Persian Gulf War, history is full of incidents in which the Chosen People have survived when the odds were against them. Is it only luck, or is it the God of Abraham, who promised to preserve His people? Esther is a story of Yah at work behind the scenes. Yet someday He will step out from behind the curtain. Will you be glad to see Him?

## PURIM CUSTOMS

### The Megillah

It is traditional at Purim to read the entire story of Esther in the synagogue. In keeping with ancient custom, it is read from a scroll, which in Hebrew is called a "Megillah." (it is from this custom of reading "the whole Megillah" of Esther that the expression "the whole Megillah" originates). There is a carnival atmosphere in the synagogue on this occasion, with people wearing colorful costumes and making lots of noise whenever the name of the evil Haman is mentioned.

### Dressing Up



People wear costumes at Purim. Of course, the kids really get into this, but grownups dress up as well. There are differing opinions as to how this custom originated. It may have been an outgrowth of the Purim pageants, and many people choose to dress as characters from the Esther story. Others dress as other Biblical characters. Another line of thinking associates the costumes with the need of the Jewish people to disguise themselves to avoid the massacre which Haman had arranged, and hence it is considered appropriate to dress as things decidedly not Jewish (e.g., a nun, Santa Claus, the pope). Obviously, between these two ideas, anything goes, and one is apt to find anything from Adam to Zoltar.

## **The Grogger**

As the Megillah (Book of Esther) is being read, the people listen for the name of Haman and try to drown it out with noise. Any kind of noise will do, but the traditional noisemaker is the grogger, a mechanical device which makes a loud grating sound when twirled. It is also customary to write Haman's name on the bottom of your feet in line with

**Rom. 16:20** *And Yah of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet."*

## **Hammentashen**

A three-cornered cookie or pastry called hammentashen is served at Purim. It is filled with poppy-seed or other filling. The exact origin of the word is uncertain, but it is typically rendered "Haman's Hat." (In Israel they're known as "Haman's Ears!")

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